

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0623

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1771

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJ: ATTORNEY GENERAL ATTACKS TERRORISTS GROUPS AND
FORMER GOVERNMENT LEADERS

REF: CANBERRA 1653

1. SUMMARY: ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY ATTACKED BOTH
EXISTENCE OF YUGOSLAV TERRORIST GROUPS AND COMPLACENCY
OF FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL GREENWOOD IN HOUR- LONG
PRESENTATION IN SENATE MARCH 27. IN COURSE OF PRESEN-
TATION MURPHY ATTACKED GREENWOOD AS " PROTECTOR- OF
TERRORIST ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN AUSTRALIA AND OF
" INDIFFERENCE" TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO HIM BY
INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ON TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. GREENWOOD
RESPONDED THAT MURPHY' S ATTACK CONSTITUTED PERSONAL
VILIFICATION UNDER PROTECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE.
MURPHY DID NOT DEAL TO ANY EXTENT WITH AUSTRALIAN
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION OR WITH " RAID" OF
ASIO HEADQUARTERS IN MELBOURNE 10 DAYS AGO. HE HAS
PROMISED FURTHER INFORMATION ON ASIO IN COURSE OF
CURRENT THREE- WEEK SITTING OF PARLIAMENT. MURPHY
ALSO TABLED LIST OF DOCUMENTS , SOME WITH CLASSIFICATION
BY FORMER GOVERNMENT OF " SECRET" IN SUPPORT OF HIS
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STATEMENT. ONE OF THESE DOCUMENTS IS DESCRIBED AS
MEMORANDUM FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CANBERRA ABOUT THE U. S.
ATTITUDE TOWARD CROATIAN EXTREMISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PATIENTLY AWAITED STATEMENT ON YUGOSLAV TERRORIST ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN AUSTRALIA, ATTORNEY GENERAL LIONEL MURPHY ACCUSED FORMER GOVERNMENT OF COMPLACENCY IN DEALING WITH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND OF INDIFFERENCE TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY INTELLIGENCE SOURCES WITH RELATION TO THESE ACTIVITIES. MURPHY CHALLENGED FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL GREENWOOD TO DENY THAT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE WAS NOT AVAILABLE WITH WHICH TO GO AFTER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND TABLED IN SUPPORT NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS PURPORTING TO SHOW DANGEROUS NATURE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND THEIR RAMIFICATIONS. MURPHY'S STATEMENT CONTAINED ABOUT 6000 WORDS AND TOOK ABOUT ONE HOUR TO DELIVER. QUESTION PERIOD FOLLOWING STATEMENT TOOK ABOUT TWO HOURS. (COPIES OF HANSARD COVERING THIS PRESENTATION BEING SENT BY AIR POUCH).

3. IN HIS OWN DEFENSE, SENATOR GREENWOOD ACCUSED MURPHY OF ENGAGING IN "" MALICIOUS ABUSE OF PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE" AND PROMISED TO REPLY TO MURPHY'S ACCUSATIONS IN LATER DEBATE ON SUBJECT.

4. ONE OF DOCUMENTS TABLED BY MURPHY FOR SUPPORT OF STATEMENT IS DESCRIBED IN HANSARD AS FOLLOWS:

" ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

"51. DOCUEMTN B26 IS A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM NO. 2205/72 DATED 31 JULY 1972, TO THE SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FROM THE COUNSELLOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D. C. THAT MEMORANDUM STATES THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD GAIN NOTHING AND LOSE MUCH IF YUGOSLAVIA WERE TO BREAK- UP OR BE WEAKENED BY INTERNAL DIVISIONS AND SEPARATISM, PARTICULARLY IF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS WERE ENCOURAGED OR PROMOTED FROM ABROAD. IT ASLO STATES THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD BEEN CONCERNED TO CHIP AWAY AT THE ROOTS OF THE CROATIAN EXTREMIST STRENGTH IN THE UNITED STATES."

5. ABSENT FROM MURPHY'S STATEMENT WAS ANY INDICATION OF NECESSITY FOR " RAIDING" ASIO HEADQUARTERS MORNING OF MARCH 16. MURPHY DOES, HOWEVER, QUOTE ASIO DIRECTOR GENERAL PETER BARBOUR AS DESCRIBING ATTITUDE OF FORMER ATTORNEYS GENERAL GREENWOOD AND HUGHES AS

" INDIFFERENCE" TO PROBLEM OF CROATIAN TERRORISM. QUESTION WHICH IS RAISED IN PRESS REPORTS CONCERNS WHAT RELATIONSHIP ASIO CAN EXPECT TO HAVE WITH NEW GOVERNMENT IN VIEW OF " RAID" AND APPARENT SUSPICION OF ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS APPARENT BASIS FOR " RAID". MURPHY HAS INDICATED HE PLANS TO MOVE DIRECTOR GENERAL BARBOUR TO CANBERRA SO THAT LIAISON WITH ASIO CAN BE MORE DIRECT.

6. IN PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 27, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT BY QUESTIONS ABOUT MURPHY' S STATEMENT MERELY SAYING THAT MATTER WAS IN PROCESS OF BEING DEBATED IN THE PARLIAMENT AND THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO SAY THINGS OUTSIDE OF PARLIAMENT ON IT. WHITLAM DID, HOWEVER, STATE THAT WHEN HE HAD REFERRED PREVIOUSLY TO RE- ORGANIZATION OF AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, HE MEANT A RE- ORGANIZATION INVOLVING ASIO AND THE COMMONWEALTH POLICE. CONTAINED IN MURPHY' S STATEMENT ARE SOME PROPOSALS TO ENSURE CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN ASIO AND THE COMMONWEALTH POLICE IN COMBATING TERRORISM. INCLUDED IN NEW LEGISLATION WOULD BE PROVISION TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST VIOLENCE TO A FOREIGN GUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT ; AGAINST EMBASSIES OR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL; AND THREATS AGAINST AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

7. COMMENT: SEVERAL COMMENTATORS HAD QUESTION WHETHER MURPHY' S PERFORMANCE IN SENATE MARCH 27 HAS PROVIDED SUFFICIENT BASIS TO GO AFTER CROATIAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN AUSTRALIA EVEN THOUGH MURPHY LISTED THREE " EXTREME CROATIAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS" AND OTHERS WHICH SUPPORTED THE THREE MAJOR ONES. IN THIS RESPECT THEY WONDER IF ATTITUDE TAKEN BY FORMER ATTORNEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL GREENWOOD WAS IN FACT NOT A LEGALLY CORRECT ONE. IN CLAIMING, HOWEVER, THAT TERRORIST GROUPS THREATENED LIFE OF YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER BIJEDIC AND PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM DURING BIJEDIC VISIT WEEK AGO, MURPHY APPEARS TO HAVE PROVIDED BASIS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENT' S RELATIONSHIP WITH ASIO. JOURNALISTS ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY HAS NOT APPARENTLY PROCEEDED IN A LEGAL SENSE AGAINST ANY OF THE ORGANIZATIONS NAMED ALTHOUGH HE HAS REQUESTED IMMIGRATION MINISTER GRASSBY TO DRAW UP LIST OF ALIENS WHO MIGHT BE DEPORTED FOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP. PRESS HAS BEEN QUICK TO POINT OUT NEED NOW FOR GREENWOOD TO REPLY TO MURPHY' S CHARGES. AT SAME TIME, MURPHY STILL ON THE

HOOK TO PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR HIS " RAOD" ON ASIO.
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Draft Date: 28 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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